



NATIONAL JEWISH CENTER
FOR IMMUNOLOGY
AND RESPIRATORY MEDICINE

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August 26, 1985

Attallah Kappas, M.D.
Fairchild Professor and
Vice President
The Rockefeller University Hospital
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021-6399

CONFIDENTIAL
LETTER OF REFERENCE

RE: Dr. Ronald Crystal

Dear Dr. Kappas:

It is a pleasure to write in support of the candidacy of Dr. Ronald Crystal for head of a clinical research group at Rockefeller University Hospital. Although I have only known Ron personally for about 7 to 8 years, my knowledge and respect for his contributions to respiratory disease, particularly as related to interstitial lung disease and emphysema, antedated this for a long time.

In my opinion, Ron is one of the most productive and promising investigators in the field of pulmonary medicine. In particular, he has made major contributions to our understanding of the pathogenesis of interstitial lung disease. His excellent biochemical background has shown through in all of his research and has placed him at the forefront in the investigation of destructive and fibrotic lung disease.

Dr. Crystal's early studies of collagen in the lung were seminal articles which led to his major investigations into the pathogenesis of diffuse fibrotic lung disease. At the same time, his investigations led him to study other connective tissue implications in the lung and the interreaction of proteases and anti-proteinosis in producing emphysema. He was a moving figure in the use of bronchoalveolar lavage in patients with lung disease, and utilized the fluid measurements extensively in developing hypotheses regarding the pathogenesis of ILD.

Equally important, over the past decade, Ron has trained some outstanding individuals who are currently heading up pulmonary programs at major institutions and are themselves rapidly becoming recognized as leaders in clinical investigation and pulmonary medicine.

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There is no question that he would develop a strong program of patient-oriented research in addition to laboratory studies at your hospital.

As he is one of the most innovative, original thinkers who produces research of the highest quality, I therefore have no reservations whatsoever in supporting Dr. Crystal's candidacy for your position.

Yours sincerely,



Reuben M. Cherniack, M.D.

Professor of Medicine

Department of Medicine

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RMC:mep